

Artarmon – a profile of our community

From the 2001 census

By Rhoda Sexton

Every 5 years the Australian Bureau of Statistics' census collectors ask us to fill in booklets of information about ourselves. In June 2000, the Artarmon Gazette published an interesting article sourced from details in the 1996 census, about the Artarmon 'part' of our national demographic. This is an update of those statistics, using the 2001 census, with added details about Sydney and Australia for comparison.

Between the 1996 and 2001 censuses, the population in postcode 2064 decreased from 8,410 to 8,223. Age distribution has remained fairly constant over the last five years: in 1996, 20% of residents were under 19 years of age, 66% between the age of 20-59, and 14% over 60. In 2001, the percentage of people under 19 was still the same, with 67% aged between 20-59 and 13% over 60. The percentage of overseas born has increased by 2% to 48%.

People are becoming more positive about their religious affiliations. In the 1996 figures, the Gazette informed us that most of the Artarmon population did not practise a religion; but in 2001, the census showed that only 20% of the population stated that they have no religion. Of the people that practise a religion, the majority are still of the Catholic faith (22%), with Anglicans coming a close second (17%).

We are a well educated suburb compared with the rest of Australia, with 55% of the population having post-school qualifications (38% in Sydney and 34.7% in Australia). This is reflected in our employment and income statistics. We work mainly as

Selected Average	Artarmon	Sydney	Australia
Median age	33 years	34 years	35 years
Median monthly housing loan repayments	\$1,600 - \$1,799	\$1,200 - \$1,399	\$800 - \$999
Median weekly rent	\$300 - \$349	\$200 - \$249	\$150 - \$159
Median weekly individual income	\$600 - \$699	\$400 - \$499	\$300 - \$399
Median weekly family income	\$1,500 - \$1,999	\$1,000 - \$1,199	\$800 - \$899
Median weekly household income	\$1,200 - \$1,499	\$800 - \$999	\$700 - \$799
Mean household size	2.3 persons	2.7 persons	2.6 persons

Source: ABS 2001 Census

professionals and in offices, with 62% holding managerial or professional positions (compared with 42% in Sydney and 9.2% in Australia). The Australian median weekly individual income for people aged 15 years and over in 2001 was \$300-\$399 – however, 60% of the Artarmon working population earns over that amount.

With a reliable transport service right at our doorsteps, about 39% of us use public transport to travel to work compared with 19% for Sydney and 6.4% for Australia.

Most of us are apartment or townhouse dwellers (69% in Artarmon, 28% in Sydney, 25% in Australia). This is obvious when you look at the distribution of dwellings in Artarmon compared with the rest of Australia - only 22% of private dwellings here are houses (59% in Sydney, 75% in Australia).

In Artarmon, the percentage of families with children is less than in Australia overall, with 53% of Artarmon families (both one and two parents) having children, while the Australian percentage is 63%. The comparison with Sydney is even more marked, where the percentage is 66%.

See the table which highlights some selected averages in Artarmon compared

with Sydney and Australia.

If you are interested in some more statistics, they can be found on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website: www.abs.gov.au ■



**Meet Gladys Berejikian,
MP for Willoughby**

APA Public Information Meeting

8pm, 25 November, 2003
Artarmon Library

See p 3 for more details

Artarmon Progress Association

ABN 77 319 108 019

Established 1914

The APA Committee usually meets on the 2nd Monday of the month, excluding January.

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V P/Treasurer	Michael Dawes
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artarmon GAZETTE

PO Box 540 Artarmon 1570

The Artarmon Gazette is published quarterly by the Artarmon Progress Association. It is distributed by volunteers, free of charge to Artarmon residents and businesses.

The Artarmon Gazette seeks to inform residents and business people about current local events and issues to provide them with a forum in which to discuss matters of interest and concern.

Written contributions and photographs are very welcome. Please submit all non-advertising material to the Editor. Material can be received on disk or via email. Some minor editing may be necessary for considerations of space and layout.

View and opinions expressed in the Artarmon Gazette are not necessarily those of the Artarmon Progress Association or its members. While all care is taken for accuracy, no responsibility can be taken by the Association, the Editor, Typesetter or Printer.

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FUTURE DATES

Tue	25 Nov 03	Public Information Meeting 8pm, Artarmon Library
Thu	23 Jan 04	Gazette copy closes
Fri	30 Jan 04	Gazette advertising closes
Wed	18 Feb 04	Gazette delivery complete
Tue	24 Feb 04	Public Information Meeting 8pm, Artarmon Library

APA-Notes from the President

By Keith Anderson

Our community is well aware of the pending Lane Cove Tunnel project (LCT) and its benefits. With the support of Willoughby City Council (WCC) we continue to work with the RTA for a better outcome for Artarmon but, to date, it is fairly clear that the required works and changes to the Pacific Highway (PH) corridor from Mowbray Rd to the Gore Hill Freeway (GHF) and the PH/ Mowbray intersection are unlikely to be sufficient to resolve our problems.

What to do? Can Artarmon's problems be addressed within a broader solution which might benefit a wider constituency? Artarmon residents live with heavy traffic overflows generated from outside our City. Our ability to drive within our own suburb, as well as to areas beyond, is severely compromised at almost all times of the day. A number of major traffic arteries dissect the City of Willoughby, compromising not only this ability to move about, but also the ambience and quiet enjoyment expected of our living environment.

We are aware that residents in other areas of our City are similarly disenchanting with the traffic impacts on their local environments and there is a building groundswell for action.

Lane Cove initiated constructive local activity and set a good precedent for what can be achieved. Is there any reason why the traffic problems facing Artarmon and WCC cannot be ameliorated with yet another tunnel? Why not?

Present thoughts are that a tunnel beneath the existing PH, commencing just south of Boundary St and emerging on the GHF would remove substantial volumes of traffic. It does not take much imagination to develop on / off access through smaller complementary feeder tunnels to link traffic from Fullers Rd, Archbold Rd and even Roseville Bridge traffic into a major arterial tunnel.

What is needed now is sufficient community support to encourage our civic leaders to initiate a study on the practicality of a tunnel solution - design, location, size, route, viability etc - for the City of Willoughby, to be balanced against defined benefits and how the streets of our city can be restored to a more user friendly environment.

Let it be said at the outset. This proposal is not one to encourage MORE traffic. Rather, it is to re-route existing traffic and better manage some of the impacts of the LCT, especially the intersection of cross-city travel with the main trunk routes to the city. There is no viable surface solution and it is unlikely any such solution can be offered.

Essentially, it is up to the community to develop solutions with which it is comfortable and prepared to pay. The 'payoff', which needs to be equally well managed, should be well worth the price. ■

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Further to your story "Artarmon loses two lovely sisters" [August 2003]. Arthur ('Hoddie') Butler was a delivery boy as a kid at the pharmacy on this corner. I guess it was about 1940. I still challenge him to pump up the tyres on his bike on regular occasions.

Nick Logan, Nick Logan Pharmacist Advice, 96 Hampden Road, Artarmon

Dear Sir,

The article on the rebuilding of Chatswood Station and Interchange [August 2003] said "the bus interchange will be moved to the north, will be naturally lit, and more people-friendly."

It would be easy for your reporters to have been seduced by the saccharine phrases and pretty drawings of the architects, but this design is certainly not "people-friendly". At the risk of being uncharitable, I suspect that some of the designers had their last experience as a bus passenger on a school excursion in Year 10.

From page 14 of the Concept Master Plan, it appears that the buses which now use the Interchange will be moved out to ranks in Orchard Rd, while those buses which now terminate at ranks in Railway St will continue to do so.

This is an interchange designed for buses - not people - and it would be a pity if the designers did not grasp this opportunity to create a really people-friendly facility.

The hallmarks of a proper interchange are:

1. all incoming buses set down at the closest possible point to the station entrance,
2. all departing buses pick up their passengers from a single point as close as possible to the station exit,
3. there is a separate parking area where buses wait between arriving and departing.

Under this scheme, the ranks which characterise most bus termini would be replaced by a single departure point. Here is a comfortable waiting room (or "departure lounge" using airline parlance), air-conditioned and with comfortable seating. It is a place where people can feel safer, particularly late at night when few people are travelling. Ideally it would have a departures display screen, giving real-time information - particularly useful to those passengers who just want the first bus going their way.

Let's hope that the designers rise to this occasion.

Michael Haynes

APA...what's happening in your Association

A round-up of issues the Committee is currently following on behalf of members

AIA Study Underway

In mid October, APA representative Barry Thompson attended a meeting of the steering committee of the Industrial Areas Study. The study is well underway with the consultants making good progress. Over 1000 survey documents have been sent to owners and occupiers in the areas. There have been more than 100 responses - a very high response rate. Comparisons are being prepared of the planning controls in the other industrial areas of the Lower North Shore for possible application to Willoughby.

The 'add-on' issue, relating to the industrial/residential interface at Barcoo St, will be the subject of a half-day workshop where the relevant authorities (eg DIPNA, RTA) will present their views to the affected groups so that all parties have a fuller view of what can be achieved. The consultants will prepare up to six scenarios for what might happen to the area for discussion by attendees.

The consultants feel that they are ahead of their schedule at this time - which may be handy at the end of the study in the lead-up to Christmas. The expectation is that another steering committee meeting will be called in November to talk about some of the tentative outcomes.

DCP 30 & Rainwater Tanks

Council has passed the proposed amendments to DCP 30 - Environmental Sustainability, with some minor changes. Significantly, in order to "support residents installing rainwater tanks in (Conservation) areas consistent with the intent of DCP 30", it has been agreed to waive fees

for DA, Notification, Inspection, Construction Certificate, and Security Deposits, as well as waive the requirements for Heritage Impact Statements and Surveys.

So while it appears that an application for installation of rainwater tanks will still be required in the Artarmon Conservation Area, the process should be much simpler and cheaper. The draft changes come into force on November 3, with a 2-year review period.

Bushfire Prone Zones in Artarmon

Under new NSW Rural Fire Service (NSWRFS) regulations pertaining to all local government areas, WCC has produced a new "Bushfire Prone Land Map" which supersedes the previous bushfire planning maps. Generally only those properties with a close proximity to, or sharing a boundary with bushland are affected. The map identifies both high and low risk zones, with most of Artarmon Reserve having been classified in the latter category. Properties abutting the Reserve have been inspected individually and classified bushfire prone or not depending on factors such as their distance from a potential fire source, the slope of the land, vegetation type between the existing building and the classified zone etc.

For home owners who back onto the Reserve, this may mean that DA's for classified properties will need to have regard to the "Planning for Bushfire Protection" guidelines set out by the NSWRFS. Section 149 Certificates will also state whether the property is classified bushfire prone or not.

Home owners can get further information from the Council or the Council's website. ■

Be a part of the inaugural Artarmon Fair Heritage Week 2004

As part of Heritage Week 2004, the Artarmon Progress Association is planning to hold the "Artarmon Fair" on Sat 1st May.

While having a heritage focus, the Fair will provide a wonderful opportunity for the Artarmon community to come together to celebrate our suburb and what it offers.

The Fair will:

- focus on our whole community through the creation of place of celebration and activity with stalls promoting business and community activities, sausage sizzle, kids entertainment, local musicians and more
- raise the profile of Council plans for Artarmon, including the redevelopment of Wilkes Ave
- promote the work of community organisations and services including the APA, Neighbourhood Watch, Safety House Program and the Noah's Ark Toy Library
- reinforce our commitment to our "heritage" through the launch of "A Guide to Renovating in Artarmon" along with a heritage photographic display.

The organising committee is currently looking for residents and businesses who would like to become involved in the organisation and promotion of the Fair.

Local businesses may be interested in sponsoring the Fair through advertising and/or renting a stall on the day. Community groups are encouraged to consider stall sponsorship as a way of promoting your activities and increasing local involvement.

This will be a wonderful event for Artarmon and we urge you to become involved. For further information or to register your involvement please contact Michelle Sloane - 9410 0481 or 0412 267 828. ■

APA PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

25 November 2003, 8 -10pm, Artarmon Community Library

Meet Ms Gladys Berejikian, MP, Member for Willoughby

Following on from our well-attended February meeting, which involved State election candidates, we have now invited Gladys Berejikian to attend our November meeting to provide some comments "a year on" from her election as the Member for Willoughby.

Your Executive has also drawn to Ms Berejikian's attention a number of issues which are of particular interest to our Association. These include:

- Lane Cove tunnel and its effect on Artarmon
- PRL and the Chatswood railway station/bus interchange
- State government proposals to divide the rail network into 'sectors'
- Artarmon railway station - access for the elderly/disabled
- Road traffic problems in our local area
- Public transport services to/from the Artarmon industrial estate
- Development of WCC industrial areas
- The Civic Centre: its development and expectations of any Govt. contribution to its cost
- Council amalgamations and boundary changes
- The maintenance of Willoughby's community infrastructure.

This is the final information meeting for the year, so please join us for the opportunity to have your say about local issues, followed by some 'Christmas Cheer'

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BB and the Gee-Gees

By Geof Cameron

Well known local electrician Brian Bugden didn't ride the winner in this year's Melbourne Cup. In fact, after recent events, Brian feels that if he ever sees a horse again, it will be too soon for him.

On moving to Lane Cove six years ago with his wife Susie and daughters Cassie, 8 and Gabrielle, 6, Brian started up BB Appliance Repairs and Electricals. Since then Brian has established a solid local customer base and a reputation for professionalism and honesty. Indeed, one Artarmon resident was so impressed she wrote to the Gazette in early 1999 to tell others about Brian's great service!

In August, Cassie and Gabrielle, both of whom are students at St Michael's in Lane Cove and avid 'Saddle Club' fans, talked Brian and Susie into taking them horse riding on the Central Coast. After the other riders in Brian and Cassie's group had returned, Susie and Gabrielle walked down the dirt road to find them. As they met up, something spooked the two horses and Brian was thrown to the ground, breaking his left arm (why it's called a humerus, Brian doesn't know!) and fracturing

two transverse processes at the base of his spine.

As a result, Brian had a pin-and-plate operation at Prince of Wales Private Hospital in mid-August and his arm was out of action for a month. Coincidentally, Susie had a scheduled operation at North Shore Private Hospital on the same day, and was recovering for some weeks afterwards. Neither know how they could have coped without the help they received from their parents and the wonderful mothers at the girls' school, St Michael's.

Susie is now fully recovered and Brian is back on light duties for a few weeks before getting back to full fitness. Brian, who is determined never to ride a horse again, thought that some good may have come from his accident if he could just convince Cassie and Gabrielle how dangerous horse riding could be. But, as Cassie said, "You fell off, Dad, not me". ■



Brian Bugden

Artarmon's Tennis Clubs By Barry Thompson

Is that grass orange or brown? That was one of the questions asked when Cleland Tennis Club's courts were recently upgraded with new synthetic grass. The court areas remain green but the out-of-court playing surfaces are in the contrasting colour. Cleland club's upgrade follows by less than a year the refurbishing of the adjacent Artarmon District Tennis Association's court surfaces.

Both clubs occupy Council open space on the corner of Hampden and Barton Rds. Each club has three courts and the ADTA courts are equipped with lights for evening play. Each club also has a modern, well-equipped clubroom. Both clubs lease their facilities to professional tennis coaches during weekdays. The PTS coaches provide a valuable service to Artarmon Primary School by offering sport options during class hours as well as out-of-hours coaching for students. They also run early morning competitions as well as individual and group coaching for all ages.

I'm told that there has been some talk over the years about amalgamating the clubs - it hasn't happened to date, but both have seen the number of their members decrease, and the average age of members increase, over

recent years, so the issue of amalgamation may have to be revisited. It is possible that the changing demographic of our area, with a larger proportion of residents who rent and so are more transient, is contributing to the membership issues.

One thing that is most unlikely to be deterring new members is cost. For example, Cleland club charges its members just \$125 pa in fees. For that, they can play free on weekends and Tuesday mornings, and at other times by arrangement, throughout the year - and the club even provides the balls. Compare that to local commercial court hire rates, which can rise to \$20 per hour on weekends. Both clubs also offer opportunities for competition play through the teams they enter in the Northern Suburbs District Tennis Association.

Each club has display boards indicating how officials and coaches can be contacted. A simple way to make contact is simply to turn up one Saturday afternoon and ask to join in the social games. Your reception will probably be in proportion to your skill level - but be heartened that the average level of skill against which you will be compared is changing, along with members' age! ■

POSITION VACANT - GAZETTE ADVERTISING SALES

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Improving representation in Artarmon

By Barry Thompson

Your Progress Association attempts to reach you, our constituents, through this Gazette and by inviting you to our meetings and events.

Non-resident Owners

Our constitution states that we represent all the residents and property owners in Artarmon, ie within 'postcode 2064'. While we attempt to deliver the Gazette to all the letterboxes in the area, we do not catch all our stakeholders because not all owners are residents, nor all residents owners (and not everyone has a letterbox!). We suspect that only 30% of apartment occupiers and 50% of businesses own their properties. So our Gazette is unseen by 2350 non-resident owners.

So recently we decided on an initiative to improve our opportunity to reach all of you through the Gazette. If you are a non-resident owner, and you join the APA, we will mail the Gazette to you each quarter. If you read this as a renting resident, we would be pleased if you would bring this offer to the attention of your landlord. The offer is further explained in the membership renewal note below.

Apartment dwellers

While the APA's membership has increased slowly but steadily in recent years, most of our members are east side home owners. While representation of those who live both on the western side, and in apartments generally, is part of our aim, it is not something we feel we are achieving well at the moment. Indeed, we have few committee members with current experience of the practical issues that are faced by apartment dwellers. On a larger scale, representation of those who live in apartments in the WCC area generally also appears deficient, as among all 12 Councillors, not one appears to live in an apartment.

Getting involved locally

So how do we go about getting people more involved in local issues and groups? To date, we have had little success in attracting apartment dwellers to our meetings and Committee. This article might, however, encourage potential attendees. A similar case could be made for representatives of the industrial and business communities within the area.

The APA archives show that in the early years of WCC, Councillors were elected directly from the Progress Associations. Getting involved in groups like the APA can be an opportunity to

learn about local issues and on a broader scale, the way the 'local government system' works. As the APA grows and evolves, we may have the opportunity to focus more strongly on issues for particular sub-sections of '2064', through formation of subcommittees of the APA or even through autonomous representative bodies. Such bodies could also be the breeding grounds for Councillors of the future, and for greater representation of issues for all of 'Artarmon 2064'. ■

ARTARMON DEMOGRAPHICS	
Unit owners	3150
Unit owner-occupiers	1350
Unit occupiers	3150
House owners	1600
Business owners	500
Business owner-operators	500
Total*	10250

*based on Gazettes distributed and basic assumptions

How APA income may be used:

- Meet costs associated with day-to-day operations, including the website and email services to members
- Provide a buffer in case the Gazette fails to cover its costs
- Run, sponsor or assist community-building activities in Artarmon & the City of Willoughby
- Provide a 'fighting fund' to help argue and publicise APA stances on such issues as development or traffic control

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Councillors' feedback...feedback...feedback



Amalgamations

Responding to State Government's directive, Ryde, Hunters Hill, Ku-Ring-Gai, Hornsby, Willoughby and North Sydney are holding a series of forums to discuss the possibilities of Council

amalgamations. For reasons not apparent to me, Mosman decided against attending.

The term 'amalgamation' doesn't necessarily mean a church wedding. It could equally apply to joint undertakings in areas such as waste, catchment management or traffic. With no formal framework or criteria, however, all Councils are nervous about the amount of work it will take to review the operations, policies and cultures of every Council to see where amalgamation may add value to each Council's current operations. Willoughby is doubly nervous. As one of the communities with the lowest rates in NSW, any actual boundary changes will almost inevitably mean rate rises.

At the first forum, the speaker from the Shires urged us to use the opportunity to look forward as well as sideways, while the speaker from the Premier's office said it was part of the renewal process the Government was undertaking to change the footprint of government to better face the challenges of

the future. All participants did agree that whatever suggestions came forward, full community consultation would be required as the first step of the process. Watch this space.

Civic Place

In March 2004 every voter in Willoughby will be asked to express confidence in the Civic Place project. From those who have looked at the proposal on exhibition, the reaction has been extremely positive, but many have still not seen the model nor looked at the business plan. Equally as worrying is the news that a political party has been formed to contest the next Council elections to stop the Civic Place project. Members are thought to have an attachment to the old town hall and library. This is a concern. The Civic Place proposal is visionary. Project delivery to date has been impressive. The business case is persuasive. It is troubling to think that such a sound proposal could be undermined by ennuui or politics.

Artarmon Public School winners

One of the things I do in my other life is run an annual environmental murder mystery for Years 5 to 8 throughout Australian schools using television and the internet. In October I had the rare pleasure of combining my work and role as a Councillor with the presentation to Class 6K of Artarmon Public School for winning the title of "Murder under the Microscope Eco-Planner 2003".

50,000 students fought it out for 6 weeks but

no one could match the skills, innovation and sheer hard work of Artarmon's very own 6K! Congratulations to all the students and to their teacher, Kaye Sarrouf, for a wonderful effort, and to 6C who were also winners in the first part of the game.

9979 9477 / lesley.stephens@prismpix.com. ■



Heritage recognition of Artarmon Station

In the 1999 Council election I undertook to protect the current Artarmon Railway Station by the best means available to Willoughby Council, although it is

State Government property. Following my prompting, the Station has been examined for heritage recognition, and is now to be included in the Willoughby LEP as an item of heritage significance. These amendments to the LEP are out on public exhibition. After four years this issue is moving towards a very successful outcome.

Traffic on the Pacific Highway

An issue that attracts my attention is reducing the need for local traffic to use local rat runs. This means in part looking at inter-regional traffic on the Pacific Highway (PH) and seeing that it is treated in such a manner that the Highway is not constantly congested forcing

CIVIC PLACE



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION - NEW WILLOUGHBY CITY LIBRARY



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Councillors' feedback

local traffic into local streets, particularly in times of high usage.

To ensure that this issue is addressed on the Willoughby section of the PH, public pressure will be necessary to force the Federal Government to look beyond funding improvements to Pennant Hills Rd, and to include the PH issues in solutions like the Sydney orbital.

It means developing an SRA options paper for the Sydney end of the PH. It means getting people from Dee Why, the Central Coast and all those who commute on the Highway from Turramurra to North Sydney to support our push for action. Not an easy task, but an important one for our local environment and lifestyle.

Some may argue that policy and any expenditure should be aimed at taking cars off the roads. We have seen the result of these policies for the last decade. More cars using the roads and parked on the local streets. In that time we have not seen an improved and competitive public transport system, which is important for getting people out of cars and into sustained public transport use. Indeed at Artarmon it could be argued that the public transport service has gone backwards.

A mix of policies, rather than a blind observance to a demand traffic approach, is one of the ways government could move forward on this issue. Improving the current highway system and at the same time, stopping commuter parking in the streets, are two potential parts of this overall policy mix.

Raising the awareness

Minister Scully has called for a safety audit on the top end of the PH following a spate of fatal motor vehicle accidents. Figures provided recently to Council showed that the southern end of the PH - from Turramurra to North Sydney - has more non-fatal accidents than Pennant Hills Rd (where all the Federal Government money is being spent). Yet this end of the Highway was not included in the safety audit.

Following Mr Scully's announcement, I convened a meeting with the State MP's for Willoughby and Lane Cove to raise awareness of the need to improve our local section of the PH, and to try to get the safety audit extended. They have undertaken to take up this specific issue. ■



Deputy Mayor
Kate Lamb

Culture in the City

September was so busy! Packed with Spring Festival events and celebrations. I was thrilled to see Artarmon's Jan Cumming winning a 'Highly Commended' at the opening event - the Willoughby Art Prize. Once again, the annual Street Fair provided a showcase for the myriad

of community groups we are so fortunate to have in the city. And this year, the CBD hosted the inaugural Melody Markets, bringing diverse musical talents out onto the streets. Although I only got there in the evening - hearing a wonderfully eclectic bracket from a subset of the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra - I believe that local talent had been at it all day, and that the only people who were unhappy were those who 'hang out' up near the station (put out because 'their' space was invaded!). I loved seeing the interaction of the ethnicities and the generations around the giant chess board in Chatswood Mall. Similarly, I was enchanted one evening by the sight of paper lanterns adorning our City Hall, courtesy of the Australian Taiwanese Society in celebration of the Eastern Moon Festival - and afterwards by their spontaneous display of ballroom dancing in the Bailey Hall.

Coincidentally, last month Council resolved to exhibit its Cultural Plan. On exhibition now and inviting your comment, this Plan moves way beyond the traditional territory of the performing and visual arts, where Willoughby already has a fine reputation for patronage (how many local Councils support a full Symphony Orchestra and Choir, two Musical Societies, a City Band and a clutch of thespians as well as the Annual Art Prize, developer funded public art works and an acquisitive bronze sculpture award?). What I really like about it is the potential to recognise and celebrate the differences in our midst, something which I feel has been devalued if not 'closed down' by policy makers at other levels of government. In the words of Donald Horne: *"cultural policy safeguards the cultural rights of the people and places these rights on a par with political and social rights i.e. the right to engage with the intellectual and cultural heritage of people, to create a sense of wonder of our fellow citizens, to undertake a variety of approaches to develop our own forms of art and culture and to imaginatively engage in what is presented by others..."*

On a more prosaic note, there is currently a flurry of interest in what is being called 'structural reform' of local government. We northside Councils have written to the Minister advising that there has been no groundswell of community representation on the matter of realignment of boundaries. We are aware, however, that there is always room for improvement in services, and it may be that work with our neighbours to achieve better services. Moreover, we intend to look into these options within our Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC). We also suggested that structural reform should properly involve that at state level too (I'm not holding my breath on that one). I'd be pleased to hear from readers who have ideas on any of the above.

kate.lamb@willoughby.nsw.gov.au. ■

FLIGHT CENTRE HAS LANDED AT ARTARMON

The newly opened **FLIGHT CENTRE ARTARMON** is the 1,076th retail store in the international travel group.



The store is managed by one of the company's top NSW travel consultants, Patrick Werdenberg. Patrick, a multi award-winning **Flight Centre** employee, who has visited many of the worlds premier destinations, brings a wealth of international and domestic travel experience to the new store.

In fact there are few parts of the world that Patrick hasn't ventured to with Europe, USA, South East Asia and the Middle East among his areas of expertise. Patrick, who was born and grew up in Switzerland has lived in Australia for the past twelve years, now calls Australia home.

His assistant manager, Renee Grant, is also a seasoned traveller with a strong background in customer service. Renee has worked as an international travel consultant with **Flight Centre** for two years after roaming the globe for three years living and working in London. Renee has travelled to over 40 countries, including North America, UK, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and throughout Australia, whilst working as a tour guide.

Sarah Lloyd is new to **Flight Centre** and is a valuable addition to the team. She has lived in both the UK and Thailand for a number of years. Her background is in customer service and she has travelled widely including the east coast of the USA, Africa, South East Asia and the Pacific.

The store can arrange everything from car hire and travel insurance to luxury cruises and adventure getaways for customers.

Customers at **Flight Centre Artarmon** can also expect Australia's most affordable airfares - **Flight Centre's** lowest airfares guarantee means the shop's consultants will beat any genuine quote.

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Artarmon Public School news

By Katrina Weir

Artarmon students win national prize

Two Artarmon Public School classes recently won awards in the environmental competition 'Murder Under the Microscope' - 6C students were state bronze winners and 6K national champions.

The competition was run over the internet and on an SBS television program, and was entered by over 2000 schools in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. It involved following a series of environmental clues to track down the location (within Australia), the victim, the issue and the villain of an environmental crime. The winning clues were: the Weir River, Queensland (crime site); the black striped wallaby (victim); land clearing (villain); and runoff (issue).

6K believe it was their cooperation and teamwork, combined with an entertaining video, realistic catchment plan and design and

production of an innovative newspaper that clinched the title.

Class teacher Kaye Sarrouf said, 'The class worked so well together. The competition was an amazing way to learn about different parts of Australia. I am so proud of them; they did a fantastic job.'

The students of 6K were thrilled with their win if not a little taken aback.

According to Aarushi Sahore, "When we found out [we won], we were surprised. Even though we had put a lot of effort into it - we didn't think it would be recognised."

Lesley Stevens of the Open Training and Education Network of TAFE visited the school and presented 6C with 'Murder Under the Microscope' t-shirts and 6K students with t-shirts, a glass shield and a CD/DVD player for the school. ■



Classes 6C and 6K triumphant in 'Murder under the Microscope'

Interested in helping your local primary school...

Artarmon Primary School is always keen to hear from local community members who are interested in donating their time to help at the school. If you're interested in being involved with Artarmon Primary School,

please contact Carol Allbon in the school office on 94111950. Alternatively, please fax Carol on 9415 1243 or email: artarmon-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au. ■

Artarmon Medical Centre

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for 1-5 year olds finishes on
31 December. Please book
an appointment NOW.**

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Phone 9411 5858

Writing for fun brings recognition for Artarmon student



Henry Wells' poem, A Boy's War, is dedicated to people everywhere, and has been selected for publication by The Write For Fun Publishing Company in "Poetry Universe."

My name is Henry Wells. I am 11 years old and in year 5 at Artarmon Public School. My teacher, Mr Weyde, asked me if I wanted to write a poem for The Write For Fun competition. It was around the time of the Bali Bombing, and September 11 was still being spoken about in the news. I thought I would write something from my point of view. I have no experience of world matters or different religions but I feel strongly that this is not the way we should be living our lives no matter which God we worship or where in the world we are born! We were asked if we wished to dedicate our poems to anyone or thing. I dedicated my poem to people everywhere and hope for a better future and hope for world peace.

I didn't win the competition but I did get published in "Poetry Universe." I enjoy writing

poetry because it's a way I can express my feelings in a unique way. I also enjoy writing, playing most kinds of sport, especially soccer, and spending time with my friends. ■

A Boy's War by Henry Wells

*The word war means not love or share,
The word war means we've forgotten to care!*

*Why does there have to be two sides to every fight?
It shouldn't matter whether we're black or if we're white.*

*Why not use voices? Why use force?
It causes pain and suffering, loss and remorse.*

*The sun and moon will rise and go,
But freedom will never lose its glow.*

*Surely this wasn't God's plan or will,
That we should be armed and taught to kill.*

*I can only speak with one voice,
I'm but a boy who's made a choice.*

*The choice is simple, the choice is PEACE,
Peace, liberty and freedom shall not cease.*

*As ever the sun rises and continues to set,
I owe my God a life long debt!*

Supporting local artists

By Anne Weinert

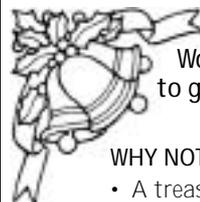
In December 2002, dale thomas gallery held an exhibition and sale of work by local ceramic artists. The exhibition was so popular that it is being held again this year. Curator Glenda Hoy says that 15 ceramic artists and 2 painters will be represented, and that those involved are "people that I pot with, and people that I study with".

The aim of the exhibition is to expose the

public to a wide variety of ceramic ware, and will include everything from artistic sculptural pieces to functional items such as vases and platters.

Last year, I took the opportunity to buy a number of Christmas presents from the reasonably priced pieces on display.

The exhibition is on again from Dec 10th, and will be a great opportunity to support local artists and to see and buy a broad cross-section of individual, handmade ware. ■



Wondering what to give your loved one for Xmas??

WHY NOT FRAME:

- A treasured photograph
- Memorabilia
- Your child's drawing

Come and see us before the end of November to ensure Xmas delivery

dale thomas gallery presents Phillip Holquinn "PAINTINGS"

Opens 6pm 20th November
Until 4th December 2003

DON'T MISS OUR GIANT Annual Pottery Sale

- 15 Local Potters
- 2 Local Artists

Opens 6pm 10th December
Until 17th January 2004



artarmon Framing & dale thomas gallery

Lynn, Bob & Ross wish to thank the people and the business community of Artarmon for their support over the last two years. We wish everyone a very Merry Xmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2004.
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Water restrictions and your garden

By Mollie Shelley



Cartoon by Wendy Bishop

As I write it is raining, but I fear there won't be enough to save us from recently imposed water restrictions. In any case, it is clear we must learn to be more careful with this precious resource. I am preparing my garden as best I can and will write about it as a case study.

For those who've not seen it: the garden is shaded by several tall eucalypts, sasanqua and japonica camellias, magnolias, maples, tree ferns and other tall shrubs; there are many small plants in the ground. I'm a plant collector. There are paved areas covered by lattice and Sisalight under which, even now, there are still twenty hanging baskets. Throughout the garden there are about eighty pots ranging from small to very large. You can see the problem!

First I ripped up the extensive spray watering system and replaced most of it with a drip system using Pope's new DripEze piping. Where the old system watered hanging baskets, I've put a tap into the line in the hope that at some future stage I'll be able to use it again. As I worked I mulched each bed with 4 to 5 cms of cow manure and covered that with 8 to 10cms of T-Tree mulch or bark depending on the location and type of planting. On beds known to dry out and become water resistant I've used Saturaid at the recommended rates. I will need to replenish it in six months' time.

As I refurbish hanging baskets I'm lining them with black plastic, with holes cut for drainage, and adding Rainsaver crystals to the mix. Many of the tuberous begonias have been taken out of their individual pots and put together in planter boxes with Rainsaver crystals added to the potting mix. Read the instructions and don't overdo it or you'll have jellied crystals appearing on the top of your soil. Unlike products such as Saturaid, which you sprinkle on the soil, and Wettasoil which you add to water, the crystals last for years. There is an appropriate place to use each of these products.

At present I can keep plants in pots and baskets alive with water from kitchen and

bathroom taps, before the hot comes through, and from washing fruit and vegetables. I've ordered a rainwater tank to help with hand watering and topping up the fish ponds. Many previously potted geraniums and pelargoniums have found new homes in the garden. Seedlings of Sweet Alice self-sown between paving stones are transferred to hot spots along the concrete drive.

Here's a short list of plants for hot or dry conditions: grey leaved plants – nepeta or 'Catmint', pinks, cerastium 'Snow in Summer', lavenders; ageratum, alyssum, salvias, calendula; daisies – shastas, pyrethrum, marguerites, brachycombe; gazanias, gerberas, verbena, zinnias, phlox, petunias, marigolds, roses, plumbago, hibiscus, nandina and many succulents; some climbers – bougainvillea, pyrostegia, pandorea, Ionicera 'Honeysuckle'. For shade try autumn crocus, liriopse, hostas, some of the begonias and many of the bromeliads. ■

PERMACULTURE NORTH meets 3rd Monday evening each month in Lindfield.
Info: Wendy Bishop, 9420 4884.



**Neighbourhood Watch*
AGM and Xmas Cheer**

ARTARMON LIBRARY, Elizabeth St
8pm, Monday Dec. 8, 2003.

*City of Willoughby Pedestrians Association (COWPA) will join us for the evening.



Phone/Fax: 9412 3326

OPEN 7 DAYS

B Mon - Fri 11.30 am to 2.30 pm **B**
5.00 pm to 10.00 pm

Y Sat - Sun 5.00 pm to 10.00 pm **Y**

O DELIVERY AVAILABLE **O**
5.00 pm - 10.00 pm

44 Hampden Rd, Artarmon 2064

northbridge P L A Z A

Why should Artarmon residents do their Christmas shopping at Northbridge Plaza? Simple:

CONVENIENCE

Northbridge Plaza is only 5 minutes drive from Artarmon - travel eastwards along Mowbray Rd, then Alpha Rd and Sailors Bay Rd. Returning to Artarmon via the Willoughby Leisure Centre is even easier. Once in Northbridge, there is easy access to Sydney's north along Eastern Valley Way or south to the City or Neutral Bay via Miller St.

EASY PARKING

Shoppers can park more quickly than going to Chatswood. Remember trying to park in Chatswood last Christmas? It's not going to be any easier this year.

GREAT RANGE OF SHOPS

Visiting Northbridge Plaza means you can do all your Christmas shopping under one roof. Gifts, food, fashion, services; even a drop of Christmas cheer. Everything you need for a great, hassle-free Christmas in one place.

LONG TRADING HOURS

The New Concept, Full Range Woolworths trades from 7.30am to midnight Monday to Saturday, and is open Sunday. Speciality shops trade to 6.00pm Saturdays - with most shops open Sunday.

SHOPS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Visiting Northbridge Plaza, with its range of speciality shops, is a unique shopping experience. Customers can buy all their gifts and food in one convenient location. And every time you make a purchase from any Northbridge Plaza store, you could win a new Audi!

We look forward to welcoming you to Northbridge Plaza - the natural place for Artarmon people to do all their Christmas shopping!

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& Eastern Valley Way, Northbridge.
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City of Willoughby Pedestrian's Association

Place yourself in a neighbour's situation:

- As a nervous and hesitant bike rider, you come across dog(s) not on a lead on the shared path. Dogs can be unpredictable and as I understand it, are supposed to be "under control" at all times. To me this means on the lead, except on the enclosed area of the oval in Artarmon Reserve. The "lead on" signs which were painted on the path have now worn off – was it all that rain we had?
- As a pedestrian you enjoy the leafy atmosphere of Artarmon but especially in wet weather, low branches of trees overhang the footpath and overgrown bushes adjacent to the footpath cause you to move off the pavement onto the grass so that in a high foot traffic area there is wear and tear. So please, dear residents, have a quick look outside your boundaries and prune where necessary – your plants may be causing a nuisance to passers by! Contact Jan Cumming, Secretary, at jan@incontact.com.au if you would like to know more about COWPA and the range of issues we address for Willoughby pedestrians. ■

Artarmon Pizzeria in Francis Road was closed for 7 weeks as its founder and owner, Michael Kondrajan, had urgent heart bypass surgery. He has now fully recovered and is back in business. Welcome back Michael.

VALE Cyril John Heathers

On 22nd October Artarmon lost another long term resident, Cyril John Heathers. Cyril, who had lived in Artarmon since 1945, was born in England in 1909, and emigrated to Australia in 1922 on the "Jervis Bay" with his parents and 3 sisters.

Cyril moved to Artarmon in 1945 with his new bride Edna, remaining in his home here until July of this year (Edna died in 1989). In the 1950s and 1960s, he maintained and enjoyed an interest in community affairs as

Vice-President of the Artarmon & District Progress Association and as Chairman of the Board of the Post Office Mutual Benefit Society.

With other parents he was involved with the funding and construction of the 2nd Artarmon Scout Hall near Artarmon Station and when a Rover Leader was needed, he obtained his Wood Badge and held a leader's position for about six years. He remained in the APA and was a member of the Council's Waste Management Committee, only retiring his involvement in both of these organisations in very recent years. Cyril was serious and fair, honest and loyal, dedicated and respected, knowledgeable and well read, practical and reliable. He was a good friend to many, and had many good friends.

John Heathers, son of Cyril John Heathers

Contributions to 'Talking 2064' are welcome: editor@artarmonprogress.org.au



"The Best Seat in the House"

Jan Cumming is congratulated on her painting being "hung" in the 2003 Willoughby City Art Prize by Deputy Mayor, Kate Lamb. An Artarmon resident for 17 years and student of Ruth Faerber at the Workshop Arts Centre, Jan opened her studio for the Spring Fling, a gallery and local studio open weekend in September organised by the WCC Arts and Cultural Department as part of the Willoughby Spring Festival. ■



St Basil's Anglican Church Artarmon

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CHRISTMAS AT ST BASIL'S

Join us for services on:

Sunday 21 December, 5.00pm
Children's Service and
Christmas
Carols.

**Christmas Eve,
9.00pm**
Holy
Communion.
Children very
welcome.

**Christmas Day,
9.00am**

Holy Communion.
Children very welcome.



ST BASIL'S @ 5

Recently St Basil's has been conducting an *Alpha* Course at 5.00pm on Sunday and we plan to continue meeting at that time with an informal service/fellowship which will be known as **ST BASIL'S @ 5**. You will be very welcome and we think you will enjoy yourself. Come along and bring somebody with you.



Help With English (ESL)

A new programme of lessons was commenced late last year and our teachers (some of whom are Celta trained) are looking forward to the new term. Classes at beginners, intermediate and advanced levels are available at 10.15am Sunday in the Church Hall at a minimal cost.

All you have to do to join the class is come along on Sunday morning.

Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals by arrangement with the Rector.

If we can be of any other help or if you have an enquiry about the Christian faith or Church activities, please phone on 9412 1315.

Regular Sunday Services. Parish Eucharist/Holy Communion: 9.00am and St Basil's @ 5.
An inclusive Christian church where all people are always welcome.

REAL ESTATE FEATURE

What's happening to house prices?

2003 has been a year of strong growth in Artarmon house prices but has lacked the sale of any spectacular home.

The graph below provides a comparison of house sales from 2002 to 2003. At first glance, the average price appears to show that little has changed. However, this has been distorted by the fact that four places sold in 2002 were over \$1.5 million compared with zero this year.

Segmenting these figures allows a truer picture of the market to emerge. The homes that sold over \$1.5 million last year were all either fully renovated and/or very large blocks. If these are

Gil Davis is the Principal at Richardson & Wrench Artarmon. He has been the suburb's leading agent since 1985. He can be contacted on 0439 817 299 or email gil@rwartarmon.com.au



Gil Davis

taken out then the comparison is between like properties. The average for 2002 drops to \$945,247. The increase from 2002 to 2003 is thus 10.7%.

Clearly this deduction is based on low sample numbers but it appears fairly accurate. It remains to be seen what the effect would be on the fully renovated homes but presumably it would be similar. Hopefully I will get the opportunity to find out!

Regards

Gil Davis

Comparison of Artarmon house sales, 2002 - 2003

Price	2002		2003	
	Number	%	Number	%
Under \$900,000	19	43	5	19
\$900 - \$1 million	3	7	7	27
\$1 - 1.1 million	6	14	4	15
\$1.1 - 1.2 million	4	9	3	12
\$1.2 - 1.3 million	6	14	4	15
\$1.3 - 1.4 million	2	4	1	4
\$1.4 - 1.5 million	0	0	2	8
\$1.5 million +	4	9	0	0
Total	44		26	
Average	\$1,020,463		\$1,046,471	